

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Darby, et al

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
INTERCONNECTED NETWORKS HAVING A LINEAR TOPOLOGY,  
ESPECIALLY RAILWAYS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the subject application, please amend the subject  
application as follows:

Please cancel Claims 1-21 without prejudice.

Please add the following new Claims 22-57:

- A2 sub. BI
- 22. (New) A method of determining the physical order of plural railcars in a train consist where the railcars are connected to each other through a pneumatic brake pipe and an RF communication link and where the train consist includes at least one head end unit (HEU), comprising the steps of:
- transmitting a pneumatic pressure pulse along the brake pipe from a selected HEU to the other railcars;